

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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**Floor Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Safe Climate Caucus**  
**February 25, 2013**

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) took historic action this month. For the first time ever, GAO put climate change on its High Risk List because of the serious threat it poses to the taxpayer.

It makes sense. Just look at Superstorm Sandy and the droughts and heat waves we've recently endured. Extreme weather events have cost our nation more than \$180 billion over the last two years.

That's why today the co-chairs of the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change are writing to 69 Inspectors General across the federal government. We are asking for their help in assessing whether government entities are doing all they can to confront this threat.

As a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I believe it's time we take this issue seriously. If we don't, we will leave our children an unstable climate and disaster costs that they will not be able to afford.